



## **H.R. \_\_\_\_ : THE AMERICAN WORKER AND TRADE COMPETITIVENESS ACT**

During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Ways and Means Committee Democrats developed and advanced a comprehensive trade policy package to increase U.S. competitiveness and support workers around the globe. Anchoring this package were three titles that reauthorize and improve expired trade programs. The American Worker and Trade Competitiveness Act updates those three titles for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress while maintaining the same policy improvements for Trade Adjustment Assistance, the Generalized System of Preferences, and the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill.

### **TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (TAA)**

Authorization of the TAA for Workers program expired on June 30, 2022. Despite Ways and Means Democrats' efforts, the programs still have not been reauthorized. The title included in this bill reflects the TAA funding and improvements that Ways & Means passed in September 2021 and again in February 2022, which includes significantly higher funding levels, expanded eligibility, and long-overdue provisions that improve and modernize the TAA programs.

### **GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP)**

This title reauthorizes GSP through 2026 with retroactivity. It also modernizes the program's eligibility criteria by adding a new environmental criterion and updating the labor criteria to align with those sought by House Democrats in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and other trade agreements. It strengthens and increases the labor standards eligible countries must meet to ensure basic labor rights are respected and that discrimination, violence against workers, and gender-based violence and harassment are addressed. The legislation also adds new criteria on human rights, rule of law, equal protection under the law, and anti-corruption, which are identical to the requirements in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The bill also makes several process improvements to the program concerning transparency and public access. Finally, the legislation requires a study on rules of origin, women's economic empowerment, and GSP utilization rates to help the least developed countries receive more of the benefits.

### **MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL (MTB)**

This title eliminates or reduces duties on certain imports based on recommendations from the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) in accordance with the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 (AMCA). The bill authorizes duty suspensions and reductions for specific imports through December 31, 2024, retroactive four months before enactment. The bill reauthorizes the AMCA for two more MTB cycles and excludes finished products from future MTBs authorized by the AMCA. The legislation also makes administrative improvements to the AMCA process, such as granting the USITC sufficient time to assess the effects of the MTB on the U.S. economy.